

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 15, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro
Excused: Kochenburger, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Ryan who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jason McGarry, South Eagleville Road, described a recent break-in at his home and other similar events in the area. Mr. McGarry presented suggested actions which could help resolve issues of parking and increased crime in the neighborhood. (Statement attached).

Mary Hirsch, Courtyard, suggested the Council and other major boards explore the use of electronic devices to help cut down on paper and mailing cost.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, asked questions about a number of subjects including a reference in the packet to the use of child labor in the Storrs Center project; the selling of alcohol at Price Chopper; the review of a DEEP letter discussing deficiencies in the North Hillside Road project; the Town's response to audit recommendations; the possibility of prostitution if a hotel is built in Storrs Center and the Town Manager's contract.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street and a Republican candidate for Council, applauded the collaborative efforts of the State and UConn Police. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road and a Republican candidate for Council, spoke to a number of issues including the proposed Region 19 Service Agreement; the proposed acquisition of the LaGuardia Property; the Community Center fees, and the adopted budget. (Statement attached)

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following comments:

- Concerns and questions regarding the new trash system will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Although the OPM initial report merges all WINCOG members with those towns in the Northeast COG, OPM has made it clear they will honor individual town's request.
- The Town Manager thanked Mr. McGarry for his remarks and suggestions regarding public safety and will refer his communications to the appropriate staff members.
- Electronic packets for Council members are an idea the Council might consider in the future.
- The referenced use of child labor in Storrs Center did not occur.
- The answer as to whether or not Price Chopper will be permitted to sell alcohol will be reported at the next Council meeting. Council members noted some of the restaurants in Storrs Center currently sell alcohol as will the proposed wine store.

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- The ad hoc Veterans' Day Remembrance Committee could commemorate the event at the November 12, 2013 meeting. Council members agreed to postpone appointments to the Committee pending the election.
- The audit firm of Blum and Shapiro is highly respected and any recommendations received as a result of the audit are referred to the Finance Committee and implemented by staff.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded to add Item 6a, Discussion of Bottle Bill, to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan, who has been serving as the Council liaison to the Board of Education contract negotiations, reported an agreement has been reached and outlined the highlights of the agreement.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

- Fall Policing Report
Sgt. Richard Cournoyer and UConn's Acting Director of Off-Campus Student Services John Armstrong reviewed the fall activities to date. The report emphasized the increased communications among the Town, UConn, landlords and students. Mayor Paterson noted the increased efforts are having an impact and thanked those involved.

- Next Generation CT Initiatives

Mr. Hart suggested the Council debrief the UConn Next Generation presentation and identified a number of concerns regarding the impact of the initiative on the Town.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded that the Council request the Town Manager seek formal representation in UConn's project planning processes around major expansion projects including the Next Generation Connecticut initiative.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to authorize the Town Manager to request the University undertake an analysis of the impact of the expansion process on Mansfield and surrounding communities. This analysis should include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- Municipal services
- Housing stock
- Public safety
- Education
- Tax base impact
- Traffic
- Economic impact
- Land use

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate with the University for continued support for PILOT funding and any other funds to the Town necessary to support the expansion process. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town's legislators will be apprised of these motions.

2 Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed the *Summary of Force Account Work in Storrs Center*. Mr. Hart informed the Council about Councilor Freudmann's requests for information regarding comparing the Nash-Zimmer Intermodal Center's projected utilities cost with that of the Town Hall and Senior Center, and for a review of the Center's standing with regards to the Town's clean energy pledge. These items will be discussed at the October 28, 2013 meeting.

Council members discussed the importance of doing a refined analysis of the utilities cost, not just providing raw data so that true comparisons can be made. Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren explained the seeming discrepancies between the force account work totals provided in the October 8, 2013 memo and the June 25, 2012 memo distributed by Mr. Freudmann. The Public Works Director will provide the requested information for Fiscal Year 2013 only.

3. Adjustments to Easement for Route 44 Bikeway at North Hillside Road
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the proposed Amendment to Bikeway Easement by and between Campus Crossing LLC, and the Town of Mansfield. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who was not in the room.

4. Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Regional School District 19 for Parking Lot Services
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Regional School District No. 19 for Parking Lot Services, dated October 15, 2013. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted nay.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. LaGuardia Property Acquisition (FHWA Public Lands Highway Program Discretionary Grant)

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane Seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on October 28, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed acquisition. The motion passed with all in favor.

6. Mansfield Community Center/Parks and Recreation Fees
Parks and Recreation Director Curt Vincente outlined the efforts to encourage resident families, as a whole, to join the Center.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to approve the Community Center Fee Recommendations for the operating year beginning November 1, 2013 and ending October 31, 2014, as presented by staff in the October 15, 2013 Council packet.

Mr. Freudmann moved to amend the motion by adding a period after "50%" in the pool rental fee section on page 43. The motion failed as there was no second. The original motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to approve the Parks and Recreation Fee Recommendations for Athletic Field Usage Fees and Kayak Rental Fees, as presented by staff in the October 15, 2013 packet. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Selection of Labor Counsel

Ms. Moran, chair of the Personnel Committee moved, effective October 18, 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to engage the firm of Kainen, Escalera, & McHale, P.C. as labor and employment counsel to the Town, pursuant to the terms and conditions set

forth in the attached Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Kainen, Escalera, & McHale, P.C.

Ms. Moran thanked the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager for their proactive efforts to solicit labor and employment counsel for the Town. The Personnel Committee unanimously endorsed the recommendation.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Classification - Transportation Coordinator

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee moved, effective October 15, 2013, to create the classification of Transportation Coordinator and to set the pay grade for the position at grade 18 of the Town Administrators pay plan.

Mr. Freudmann moved and Ms. Keane seconded to table the motion to create the classification of Transportation Coordinator pending approval by the Council of a revised operating budget for the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center that correctly reflects the salary and benefits (if any) of the Coordinator position.

The motion failed with Freudmann, Keane, and Paulhus in favor and Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Shapiro opposed.

Council members discussed the recommended classification and noted sufficient funds have been budgeted for FY2013/2014.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted no.

8a. Bottle Bill Endorsement

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer the issue of possible support for updates to the State Bottle Bill to the Sustainability Committee and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Shapiro, on behalf of the Committee on Committees offered the following recommendations:

The reappointment of William Lennon to the Sustainability Committee for a term ending 4/27/2017,

The reappointment of Jane Goldman and Ether Soffer Roberts to the Mansfield Advocates for Children for terms ending 6/30/2016,

The appointment of Jillene Woodmansee to the Mansfield Advocates for Children for a term ending 6/30/2016,

The appointment of Douglas Kaufman to the University Town Relations Committee to fill the MCCP position and Nancy Silander to fill the citizen position (term ending 3/13/2014) vacated by Bruce Clouette.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. Life Safety Achievement Award S. Cyr – 9/23/13

10. W. Hilding – 9/23/13

11. A. Smith – 9/23/13

12. J. Talbot/R. Talbot – 9/23/13

13. M. Hart re: Council of Governments Consolidation/Reorganization

14. M. Hart re: Responsible Contractor Ordinance; Hotel Project

15. C. van Zelm re: Festival on the Green

16. F. Baruzzi re: Mansfield Board of Education Code of Ethics

17. B. Silva re: District/Municipal Budget Information Sharing Meeting

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- 18.Connecticut Water re: annual phone survey
- 19.Press Release: Mansfield Fire Department Earns 2012 Life Safety Achievement Award
- 20.Trash and Recycling Updates – October through December 2013 – Mr. Hart commented that the information in this update is useful in explaining the process to residents.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

No additional comments offered.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move into executive session to discuss Personnel in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(a), Town Manager Performance Review. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(a), Town Manager Performance Review

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus (until 10:30 p.m.) Ryan, Shapiro
Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart was invited to join the session at 10:35 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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